

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.283

August 1989

NEXT MEETING - Rig Checking Session.

On Tuesday 1st August we will repeat the popular event when members can bring along their Transceivers for some basic performance testing.

With the limited time and test equipment available the emphasis will again be on hand-held and mobile sets, we will however be able to check a few parameters of HF stations, such as output power and harmonic content of the radiated signal.

The test engineers for the evening will be Roy, G3PMX and Dick, G3WHR, who will do their best to satisfy the customers and explain the measured results.

In addition Harry, G2HPF will bring along his computer with the Morse Reading Program which was promised during his interesting talk in April but because we ran out of time members did not have the opportunity to try their skills at sending. If you wish, you can bring along your own key.

To provide an element of fairness and order to the meeting we will issue draw tickets at the start of the evening to members with equipment so that they can be called in turn for their testing session. **DON'T FORGET TO CHARGE YOUR BATTERIES IN THE HAND-HELDS!**

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm and we look forward to meeting you all at The Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- 1 Aug. CLUB MEETING - Rig Checking Session.
- 5 Sep. CLUB MEETING - Aerials are not magic!, Tony Gilbey G4YTG.
- 3 Oct. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
- 7 NOV. CLUB MEETING - Sporadic E Propagation, Jim Bacon G3YLA.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Elia G6HKM.

34 people, including 2 visitors who are keen contest operators attended the lecture given by Dave Robinson, G4FRE.

Dave started with "why take part?", well it encourages band activity, development of equipment, operating skills and last but not least, contests are fun.

It was explained who can enter R.S.G.B. contests, where you find the Contest Calendar and the rules for the various types of contests, what the contest exchanges should consist of, and most important of all, if you wish to give points in a contest, listen to a few exchanges to get the general idea of the routine before you transmit; in other words give all the information in the order it appears on the contest log sheets. All QSO's are welcome, even locals, especially in the Multiplier Contests where it will be your score multiplied by the number of different counties and countries worked (so one local QSO could in fact be worth many points). Contest Log Sheets and Cover Forms were on display and available for operators whose supplies were getting low or for those who might be encouraged to 'have a go'.

When contest groups go portable it is often a social affair, with yl's and xyl's going along (to help with the catering I suspect), but in Dave's contest group they have a rule that the bachelor operators operate through the night! The site chosen could be up a Welsh mountain, the Isle of Sheppey or any good location. Field day sites have to be registered before the contest, and of course you always hope that a rival group will not have chosen the next hill in close proximity to yours.

If operating portable, always check that the contributed equipments from the various shacks are compatible, i.e. plugs, sockets etc, this can save a last minute panic and ensure that no contest operating time is wasted.

Sometimes a contest station will be set up to coach recruits into the group and give them contest experience.

When a contest is over the paperwork begins, the log sheets must be 'tidied up' with particular attention to make sure that all duplicates are marked and not scored.

Scoring in R.S.G.B. contests is by the radial ring system and the I.A.R.U. scoring is 1 point per kilometer. See that your cover form is complete and don't forget to sign it, this slip could and often does lead to disqualification. The entry must be posted within the stipulated time given in the rules, usually post marked within 15 days of the contest.

Now its time for the adjudicators to take over, every QSO is checked and cross checked in the 3 highest entries selected and points are deducted for errors, unmarked duplicates and of course thousands of points can be lost if the multipliers are not marked. A check list of multipliers must be submitted, giving an alternative (if you have any) in case the first is disqualified for any reason.

Finally the contest results are published in Radio Communication and Certificates are sent to the winners by post from Ian G4OUT, the VHF Awards Manager. If you are lucky enough to have won a TROPHY, this will be presented at the Sandown Park VHF Convention.

Occasionally a Trophy hunt has to be held when it has not been returned by the previous winner or group holder.

Thank you Dave for an interesting evening, let's hope that a few members will be encouraged to enter into the spirit of contest operating.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR. (should have been published last month!)

The second Chelmsford DF event took place on the 19th May, when G3WHR/P was nominated to be the hidden station.

Nine teams assembled on Tiptree Heath for the start. They were a little surprised when the bearing went towards Colchester, usually it points towards the operators QTH. This time the hidden station was near the Hythe, using a site I had found while arranging the Snowman. Then, it was a disused piggery, but now it is being redeveloped for housing. The important feature was a small wood with lots of fallen trees. This was very difficult to move around in, and offered many hiding places.

As usual some found it easy - but others told a different story. One team was very unlucky and ended up in Manningtree. There were still some points left at 9.00 so the event was extended for 15 minutes to enable those in the near vicinity to find the transmitter.

RESULTS

1	Alan Williams	8.36
2	Ian Butson	8.40
3	Andy Collett	8.41
4	Andrew Mead	8.59
5	Philip Cunningham	9.00
6	Richard Whitney	9.06
7	Roy Emeny	9.12
8=	Peter Graves	----
8=	Bob Philpot	----

Andy Collett has been organising some DF events in the Brentwood area. If you are interested in taking part in these events then have a word with him at the next club meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD.

You will notice in DATES FOR YOUR DIARY that we will have the pleasure of introducing the Anglia Television weather man, Jim Bacon, G3YLA, at the November meeting.

This will obviously be a very popular event and we anticipate a large audience, however, we can only accommodate a maximum of 75 bodies in the college lecture room and therefore we must create a fair system whereby members have first choice of the seats.

The committee have arranged to print 75 admission tickets which will be available starting from the August meeting, if you are unable to attend then applications can be made by an S.A.E. to Ela, G6HKM.

The closing date for members applications will be at the A.G.M. in October when any remaining tickets will be made available to visitors.

REGISTER OF SKILLS

From the introduction in May of the skills register, a number of members have volunteered to share their experiences in particular subjects to the benefit of members wanting further information.

This month we summarise the list; the requests for information should obviously be made by mutual consent between the parties involved and we hope that it will lead to some stimulating discussions.

Dick Brocks	G3WHR	(0621)891868	Transistor Power Amplifiers.
Chris Chapman	G0IPU	(0245)269207	Sheet Metal Work.
Bill Cole	G4JUW	(024541)5748	PC Computers.
Fred Leach	G2HNF	(0245)265676	Workshop facilities by appointment.
Ela Martyr	G6HKM	(0245)360545	Contests, QSL's, DXing.
Roy Martyr	G3PMX	(0245)360545	Antennas, Batteries.
Andrew Mead	G4KQE	(0376)83094	Pye Cambridges'.
Geoff Mills	G3EDM	(02451)3494	Aerials/Transmission Lines.
Murray Niman	G6JYB	(0245)356077	Microwaves (1-100GHz), Computers (BBC-IBM-HP).
Brian Scroggs	G0BDS	(0245)74892	Practical House Earthing.
Brian Thwaites	G3CVI	(0245)71919	T.V.I. and B.C.I.
Les Turner	G4CUT	(0245)266993	Test Equipment.
Gwyn Williams	G4FKH	(0245)260831	CW Operating, CW Tests, Etc.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The August Committee Meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge (Marconi College Residence) at 7:45pm on Wednesday, 9th August. You are most welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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